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Weather Forecast		Today High: 68 Low: 53
Saturday 	High: 73 Low: 52	Sunday High: 60 Low: 46

FRIDAY

Fort Riley
Post



Delayna Carter-Labrie, 13, rides the crash simulator during the Wellness Fair at Fort Riley Middle School.
For more on the story, turn to Page 7.



Post/Cooke

Deployment
Sgt. James Spears, Company C, 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery, (left), and Chap. (Capt.) Roger Hall, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, check soldiers' carry-on bags to make sure they will fit in the overhead storage compartments prior to Task Force 1st Battalion, 41st Armor's deployment to Southwest Asia. While there, the soldiers will be conducting wartime training.

Weapons, historic tours part of Open House June 1

When Fort Riley throws a party, it's more than streamers, cake and funny hats. They roll out the heavy artillery.

On June 1, the public is invited to Fort Riley for an Open House. The free event will introduce the public to what the U.S. Army and Fort Riley do for the nation, community and its citizens.

Many large-scale activities are planned, from a weapons firing course to historic tours.

"We have designed the day's activities to be both informative and entertaining," said Brad Carlton, Open House project officer. "We will showcase the vast amount of military technologies and capabilities resident at Fort Riley, as well as the support systems that make Fort Riley a healthy, vibrant place to live, work and play. Our exhibits will be organized to provide a theme-park-like atmosphere for our guests who are free to tour and recreate in accordance with their own interests and pace," Carlton said.

Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team will host an interactive night vision exhibit inside a darkened facility. With goggles on, visitors will get a new perspective of what soldiers are capable of seeing at night. From behind a bunker and camo nets, the once dark environment will carry a cast of green as they see military action otherwise unknown to them.

The weapon system display area will feature the M1A1 Abrams Tank, M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, M109 Paladin Self Propelled Howitzer, and many more. All of these vehicles will be open to public viewing and will be accompanied by crewmen to assist visitors inside the vehicles and answer any questions.

Soldiers from Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team will host an interactive night vision exhibit inside a darkened facility.

According to Carlton, kids can "be all they can be" by getting their faces painted in full camouflage and negotiating a challenging obstacle course sponsored by 1st Battalion, 13th Armor. Medals will be awarded to all who finish.

A weapons familiarization station run by the 70th Engineer Battalion will allow visitors to handle a full array of military machine guns, up to and including the M2, or "Ma Deuce" which fires a .50-caliber round.

At this attraction guests will experience the recoil and sensation of the high-powered machine guns as they fire belts of blank ammunition.

The 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor will operate the Laser Assault course where visitors can engage targets at various distances by shooting a laser attached to an M-16 rifle which will instantly designate a hit or miss. This system, termed the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System by the Army and referred to by soldiers as MILES, is one of the most widely used and effective training devices in the Army today.

There will be a vast array of other activities during the open house as well. Fort Riley's Honor Guard will demonstrate saber drills and horsemanship skills as part of a mid-1800s encampment complete with blacksmith, farrier and chuck wagon. The Fort Riley K9 team will showcase police working dogs as they demonstrate narcotic and explosive detection skills.

If that's too much excitement, a walking tour of Fort Riley's historic district is available. The tour includes nationally significant sites, such as the U.S. Cavalry Museum and the Custer House.

King Field House will be transformed to an Expo Hall featuring booths from Fort Riley units and agencies. Local Chambers of Commerce are also invited to participate.

The long day won't leave anyone hungry. A Fest Tent filled with a variety of food and beverages for sale will be open all day.

"We are truly going all out to make this a great day for our guests, soldiers, civilian workers and family members. Don't miss it," said Carlton.

Retirement Ceremony scheduled June 5 for Col. Githerman on Ware Parade Field

Fort Riley will conduct a Retirement Ceremony on June 5, for the Col. Larry Githerman, assistant division commander for support. The ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. at Ware Parade Field.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be conducted at King Field House.

Githerman plans to retire in the local area. Githerman will be replaced by Col. Thomas G. Luebker. He is currently the director of Housing and Public Works at West Point, N.Y.

Luebker is no stranger to Fort Riley. He served as the director of Warfighter Plans and Operations for the 1st Infantry Division until he assumed command of the 70th Engineer Battalion on June 1, 1993.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Arkansas Tech University and a Master of Science in Construction Management from Boston University.

He also earned a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.

Aggressive training outlined for active, reserves

By Gary Skidmore
Command Info. Officer

Aggressive training schedules for Fort Riley-based units, mentoring reserve component soldiers or future deployments and securing a future for the installation as a warfighting center were just a few topics discussed at a press conference by Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, command general, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley Thursday morning at the Multipurpose Range Complex.

With tanks from the 1st Battalion, 34th Armor firing on the range as a backdrop to the press conference, Metz explained that June and July were going to be significant training months for the installation.

"In June, we'll have what is called a BATL-AXE exercise that will bring lots of aircraft here on Fort Riley," said Metz. "I anticipate a lot of unfamiliar rotary wing aircraft in the area."

Metz explained that the 3rd

can train on their aviation skills as they interface with ground units," the general said.

Metz said these units don't have the opportunity to get this level of training back at their armories.

Metz said another training exercise that will have an impact on the installation will be Operation Hickory Sting, a training exercise that will bring the 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade to Fort Riley to prepare for their National Training Center rotation next year.

"This is significant because our enhanced separate brigades as a warfighting structure are important combat powers that augment the active duty combat brigades."

"The 30th is one enhanced separate brigade that is very high in the queue of being able to support the national command authority," said Metz.

"We will bring them to a higher state of readiness by rehearsing that NTC rotation in July and August," he said.

cise as observers, controllers.

"It will be a significant event in that you will have 10,000 soldiers; active, reserve and guard, and I predict you won't be able to tell the difference among all those soldiers," said Metz.

Metz explained that for an active duty unit, training for an NTC rotation is an annual event. Soldiers train. Units train and prepare, and when the rotation comes, an entire year has been spent preparing.

For National Guard soldiers, the training cycle is more critical.

"In the life cycle of a National Guard unit, they are only 30 days away from their rotation to the National Training Center," said Metz. "With their weekend drills and two weeks of annual training, they will only have received 30 days of training before their rotation."

Metz said that another major requirement he has received is the mentoring and training of the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard before they rotate

Reflecting on the busy schedule laying ahead, Metz said he was comfortable with the pace and that Fort Riley and its soldiers were up for the challenge.

"All those types of things keep us very busy," said Metz of the aggressive training schedule planned for the next several years.

"That's exactly what the taxpayers pay us to do, prepare and be ready to defend our country," he said.

But Metz said there is a balance to the training pace his installation is on and over doing it.

"There is a fine line between overworking and maintaining the combat readiness we want to maintain. I think we want to be right there on the cutting edge, so we are working soldiers hard, keeping them prepared for war, but not over working them."

Metz went on to explain that Fort Riley was a premiere training installation, and the soldiers and equipment here achieved that cutting edge because of the training

no better place to train than Fort Riley," said Metz.

"I know people get tired of hearing that, but because it's such a great training area, because we are not limited with environmental concerns, because we have no encroachments to our installation, because this great prairie grass

regenerates itself no matter how bad our tanks tear it up, Fort Riley will remain a great training place," said Metz.

"I think if we can continue to build on these strengths, Fort Riley will continue to be an Army structure for many years to come."



Fort Riley welcomes classic rock legends Styx and Kansas

It's an exciting time to be on Fort Riley! On May 27, Marshall Army Air Field will transform into Marshall amphitheatre as Fort Riley welcomes classic rock legends Styx and Kansas to Fort Riley as the first stop on the 2002 Army Summer Concert Tour. Styx are accomplished veterans of the concert scene and have a multi-platinum history with both albums and singles such as "Renegade," "The Best Of Times," "Too Much Time On My Hands," "Mr. Roboto" and their biggest selling number one single "Babe" which persist with high radio airplay to this day. Styx continues to amaze sold-out crowds

with their high-energy stage shows, and recognizable hits. Kansas' humble origins in nearby Topeka, make them a special addition to our lineup. As another multi-platinum selling artist, Kansas inclusion in the lineup makes for a once-in-a-lifetime show. One of classic rock's most consistent performers, Kansas is still in heavy rotation with songs such as "Play The Game Tonight," "Point Of No Return," "Carry On Wayward Son," and the unforgettable "Dust In the Wind." Opening acts featured with the

show are up-and-coming Texas artist Pat Green, and the hilarious comedy of A.J. Jamal. Tickets for the show are on sale at unbelievable prices. General admission tickets are only \$10, and a limited number of four-pack tickets are available for only \$20. Anywhere else, tickets for an act of this quality would cost more than \$30. Tickets are available at ITR, Montgomery Communications in Junction City and Dillon's stores in Junction City, Manhattan, Salina and Topeka. Tickets

may be also be purchased by phone through ITR at (785) 239-5614. Recommend you purchase your tickets early and by all means bring your friends. The gates for the show will open up at 4 p.m., but concertgoers are encouraged to arrive early for a special treat. The Army racecar, driven by Tony Schumacher, is scheduled to appear at 2 p.m. There will be a pre-show festival area set up with music, snacks, fun and beverages to put you in the mood for a little rock-and-roll.

Parking and access will be easy for anyone wanting to attend the show. All parking will be located on Marshall Army Air Field. On-post traffic will access the parking area by turning left off of Henry Drive onto Ray Rd. Off-post traffic will access the parking area via I-70 exit 301 onto Henry Drive with a right turn onto Marshall Drive. Simple traffic control points will be located at both on-post and off-post access points to help direct and facilitate fast and easy parking. Handicapped parking areas will also be available. Some things to remember

when attending the show: Bring your blankets and lawn chairs, as all general admission seating will be festival style. Food and beverages will be available for purchase inside the venue. Coolers will not be permitted in the concert. Additionally, video cameras and recorders are not allowed. Don't bring your pets. Animals (other than seeing-eye dogs) are not allowed within the venue. And most of all have fun! I look forward to seeing you at what I'm sure will be an evening to remember for Fort Riley.

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In Step on Channel 2

6:30 a.m.....In Step
8 a.m.....In Step
Noon.....In Step
6 p.m.....In Step
10 p.m.....In Step

Fort Riley Community



May 10, 2002

America's Warfighting Center

Page 7

Space Day excitement at Custer Hill Elementary



Post/

Tahkisha Lawrence and Baylee French, students at Custer Hill Elementary School, sign their name to the Signatures in Space poster destined to fly on the space shuttle this fall. Students and teachers alike participated in the Student Signatures in Space program on Space Day, May 2.

Students' signatures will travel on shuttle

By Jeremy Heckler

19th PAD

The thoughts and dreams of children at Custer Hill Elementary School turned toward the stars on Space Day, May 2. Students and teachers alike participated in the Student Signatures in Space program.

NASA first conducted the signatures in space project in 1997 and has grown each year with schools from the United States and around the world participating. This year NASA and Lockheed Martin chose 550 schools around the world.

Tim Stuck, student support monitor at Custer Hill Elementary, said he first found out about Space Day in a magazine and checked out the website. After he received the permission from the school, he submitted entry forms.

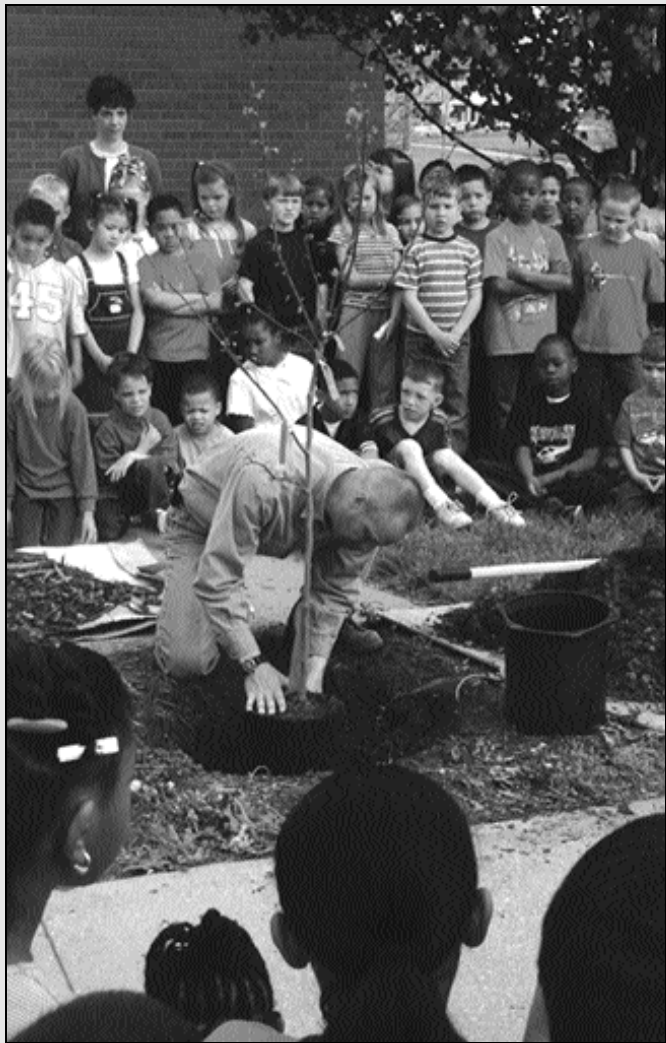
"All of the kids and adults sign the poster and then they send it to Lockheed/Martin who takes a picture and sends it on the shuttle," Stuck said "After the mission they send the poster with a picture of the astronauts and paperwork certifying that it flew in space."

According to the NASA, schools are chosen three different ways. Some schools are sponsored by Lockheed Martin and NASA organizations. Other schools, such as Custer Hill, are self-submitted while others are randomly selected.

Throughout the day, students and teachers filed into the school library where they received instructions on how they could sign the poster. Students could only sign their first name and last initial. Teachers and the fifth grade class could put their first and last name. All of the signatures had to fit on the front of the poster. Some of the children incorporated their own creativity into the

See Space Page 8

Plant a tree today



Post/Cooke

Celebrating Arbor Day

Monte Metzger, a forester from the Directorate of Environment and Safety, planted a Red Bud tree at Custer Hill Elementary School, as the school's students watch in celebration of Arbor Day. Tree planting has become an annual event for the students at the school.

Mark Neely, also a forester for the Directorate of Environment and Safety, talked to the students about the importance of Arbor Day. He told them that Arbor Day is a day to give national recognition to trees and their importance. "Trees are living things just like we are," Neely said. Arbor Day, which means simply "Tree Day," is now observed in every state --

Wellness fair helps create informed, healthy adults

Jason Shepherd

19th PAD

The Fort Riley Middle School Department of Physical Education hosted a Wellness Fair April 30, to show students many of the medical agencies that will enable them to become healthy and informed adults.

"These kids aren't exposed to a lot of these agencies," said Becky McDonnell, Wellness Fair Coordinator. "They don't know what's out there, and this will help the military and civilian communities work together to make a better environment for our kids. We want to introduce the kids to jobs that are available for them, mainly in the medical field."

There were over 45 booths set up in the gym and outside the middle school. Some of the booths included a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, climbing wall, smoking awareness, Seat Belt Convincer and aerobics. Subject matter experts in the booths at the fair spoke to kids about everything from good dental hygiene to drug awareness. "These (volunteers) truly care about what happens to our kids," McDonnell said. "They've gone above and beyond to make sure the kids are informed about their program and make sure the quality of life is good for them."

This fair was established four years ago as a "Jobs are Us" program. After that dissolved, the Physical Education Department decided to expand the event to expose the students to other medical fields besides being a doctor or nurse. The Wellness Fair, according to McDonnell, helps establish the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual needs that make up the true concept of wellness. Volunteers came from around the area, including Fort Riley, Junction City, Salina and Topeka.

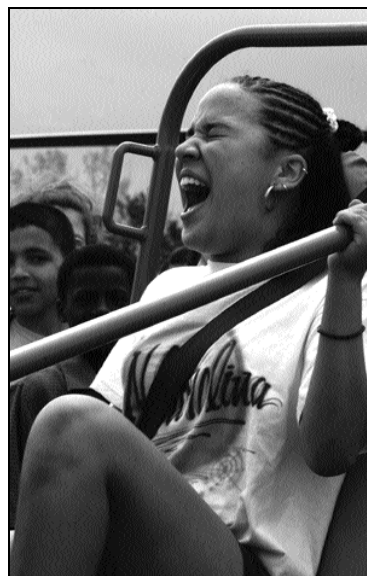
For many of the volunteers, this fair is a way to get information to kids in

said Randy Craig, a Kansas Teens as Teachers member who was there speaking about the dangers of tobacco. "If we get the kids while they're young, we can protect them from smoking when they're older."

"I'm at the dermatology booth here," added Candice Myskiw, a volunteer from Manhattan High School. "We're teaching about the importance of sunscreen and how to prevent acne."

"We had the kids put on the goggles and it simulates them being drunk," said Pfc. Jennifer Williams, a military policeman with the bike patrol. "This way they know that they're reactions are a little slower and they learn the dangers of drinking and driving." According to McDonnell, the kids really enjoyed the booths and learned a lot about what the medical field had to offer.

"I think there's a lot of oohs and aahs right now," she said. "We've had a good response from the kids and I think some had even shown some interest in the medical field who I never thought would be interested."



Post/Shepherd

Delayna Carter-Labrie, 13, rides the crash simulator during the Wellness Fair at Fort Riley Middle School on April 30. There were over 45 booths at the school for the fair.



Appreciation shown to spouses

Military honors own with special day May 10

By Steven Cooke
19th PAD

Keeping up with the 18-year tradition of Military Spouse Day, Fort Riley's Commissary and Post Exchange will host special coffee and cake hours as well as giveaways today.

"This is an annual event Fort Riley does every Friday before Mother's Day," said Betsy Young, installation volunteer coordinator and community life programs, Directorate of Community Activities Soldier and Family Support Center.

Last week General Eric Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff, issued a statement about the importance of

spouse appreciation.

"Since the earliest days of this nation's history, spouses of those who serve have made their own unique sacrifices, and their contributions to the ideals of patriotism, service, family and freedom are immeasurable and enduring," said Shinseki. "This special occasion allows us to recognize the commitment of the Army's spouses and celebrate their critical role in the vitality of our nation and the well-being of our people-soldiers, civilians, retirees, veterans, and their families."

Fort Riley's celebration starts off with coffee and cake at the commissary from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Shoppers can enter to win one of four shopping sprees.

At the Post Exchange from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., visitors can munch on more cake and coffee as they enter even more contests. This time, up for grabs will be two George Foreman Grills and a set of cookware.

"The participants need not be present to win the contest," explained Young.

In celebrating Military Spouse Day Shinseki recommended, "Do not forget the devotion and pride that the Army spouse represents and take time to demonstrate your gratitude."

To do just that Young recommends, "Tell a spouse thank you and give them a hug."



Post/

The rain stayed away just long enough for bargain hunters to search for the best deals at the Post-wide Yard Sale on Saturday. Roberta Wilson and her daughter, Jerilyn Shepard, of Manhattan, compare baby clothes at the Post-wide Yard Sale. Shoppers found a variety of clothes, furniture, crafts and more for sale at various locations on Fort Riley.

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Fort Riley Sports

Die Hards demolish Finance in final game



David Noble of the 1st Engineer Battalion "Die Hards," scores his second goal of the game in an 8-0 match against 1st Finance Battalion on May 3 at Infantry Parade Field. The game was the last for both teams during the normal season.

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

The 1st Engineer Battalion Die Hards completely demolished 1st Finance Battalion 8-0 in soccer May 3 at Infantry Parade Field. This was the last game for both teams during the normal intramural soccer season.

"We have a good defense, but it needs work," said Eavento Fearon of the Die Hards prior to the game. "Some of our best players had prior engagements and couldn't be here today. Hopefully, our offense will be up to the task."

"We don't know much about these guys," said Jason Anderson of 1st Finance Bn. "We just sort of come out here and mess around and have fun."

"We have a don't quit attitude," added Ken Landgren of 1st Finance Bn..

The Die Hards moved the ball quickly down to the 1st Finance side of the field and closed in on the goal. The Die Hards made it hard for the goalie to find the ball. Twice a Die Hard player retrieved an out of bounds ball and attempted to score, but couldn't kick it through the crowd. Then Die Hard player kicked the ball out of bounds and Adrian Smith of 1st Finance made a corner kick, finally getting it off of their side of the field.

Finance rushed the ball over to the other end of the field, but the Die Hards pushed them back. The goalie threw the ball far downfield, where Die Hard David Noble took control and made the

first goal.

The Die Hards made their second goal within minutes. Though 1st Finance fiercely defended their goal with some stunning attempts to kick the ball out, the Die Hards blocked every kick and eventually maneuvered it in.

Finance neared the Die Hard goal after the second kick; their progression only stopped when the goalie ran out and covered the ball with his body on the ground. Upon throwing it out, Glenn Simphirs of the Die Hards brought his foot up directly into the path of the forcefully thrown ball. In spite of this aggressive display, the goalie again caught the ball and threw it higher and farther out of his zone, where Noble then ran in and scored yet another goal for the Die Hards.

Through all this, 1st Finance displayed excellent communication, each player shouting out to his teammates and seeming to know instinctively when he was meant to have the ball. It wasn't enough though, as the Die Hards scored their fourth goal just before the halftime call, bringing the score to 4-0.

"Anything is possible," said Simphirs. "If we keep our focus, we can come back and win."

"We have mental toughness and composure," said Die Hard Charlie Hall confidently. "We're working as a team."

Noble said, "It felt alright (to score a goal), but better to score two."

In the second half, Die Hard

See Soccer Page 10

Artillery defeats Armor in softball tourney finals

By Christopher Selmek
19th PAD

Battery A, 1st Battalion 5th Field Artillery defeated Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor 11-24 in the final game of a softball tournament held last weekend at the Fort Riley softball complex. Over the weekend, 38 seveninning games were played in the double elimination tournament.

The game started slowly for the Artillery, when their pitcher threw eight consecutive balls, walking the first two batters. On the third batter, however, the pitcher recovered a hit ball, and threw it to first where the first out was made.

The first two on base for the Armor team made runs, but that was it for them in the first inning, because 1-5 FA caught two fly balls.

Artillery made four runs in that inning, all singles, and eventually made three outs in much the same way the Armor team had before him.

The second inning started surprisingly, as Artillery loaded the bases, then Matt Gaither hit a

triple, making three points for the team with no outs. The 1-5 FA team made six runs before allowing Armor to take the bat.

Armor scored three runs in the second inning, then a batter made a hit into shallow left field near the second base. Second baseman for 1-5 FA, Armando Valdez, recovered the ball, making an out, and then threw it to first baseman Lee Diaz for a brilliant double play. The next batter hit a pop fly that was caught by a deep outfielder, closing the inning.

In the third inning Randy McKay made a home run for Armor and Diaz did likewise for 1-5 FA. The score was 17-6 at the end of the third, with what looked like an unsurpassable lead for 1-5 FA.

In the fourth inning, Edward Solis of 1-13 Armor hit a home run with two other players on base, bringing the score to 17-9. Armor scored several more runs, but 1-5 FA did not score in that inning.

The first batter for Artillery fouled out. Another batter scored a single, and then Eddie Valverde hit a home run. An Artillery team-

member hit yet another single, and then Matthew Gaither stepped up to the bat. As he hit a line drive over second base he called to his teammates on the bench, "it's not out, it's not out," just before he was proved wrong and the ball landed just over the fence. His run brought the score to 21-12.

The next batter hit a single. The next two walked, and then Valdez approached the plate. Nailing a double into right field, he brought the score to 23-12.

The sixth inning ended at 27-17 with a ten-run lead for 1-5 FA, and an ever-shrinking chance at victory for 1-13 Armor.

Armor narrowed the gap in the seventh inning, but continued to trail throughout. And even though they scored six runs in the last inning, the Armor team eventually accrued three outs and lost the game.

"That's how it falls," said Sean Uerta of Armor. "Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose."

Kearse only grinned. "We came into this tournament knowing we would win," he said. "We just brought it all together today."



Terry Storey, 11, plays hard to help his team, the Kickers beat the Wizards, 3 - 1 on May 3 at the Colyer Manor Youth Soccer Field.

Kickers bruise Wizards

By Steven Cooke
19th PAD

The Kickers broke the Wizards spell May 3, with a 3-1 win in the fourth and fifth grade division soccer game at Colyer Manor Youth Soccer Field.

This was the Kickers third win of the season. They have no losses and one tie. For Wizards it was their first lost of five games.

Showing the cloudy skies and chilly temperature meant nothing to them; the Kickers put themselves in the lead very early on.

"I about had a heart attack. Two goals in the first three minutes of the game," said Omar Lawrence, Kickers assistant coach.

Fifth grader Jimmy Urteaga, 10, scored those two goals. His teammates did their part by keeping the ball down on their side of the field.

The game was fast paced and never short on action. The two teams kept the ball going up and

See Kickers Page 10

Although common to Kansas, chance of snake bite rare

By Alan Hynek

Since the beginning of time, snakes have been at the center of many fears and legends. They are perceived as being secretive, creepy, and just downright neaky.

Snakes are different from other wildlife, not only in a physical sense, but also in the tall-tales category. Bar none, snakes have more associated myths, stories and legends than any other animal. The most common reason

common either. Of the 38 species of snakes found in Kansas, only five are poisonous. However, you should still be weary while outdoors in this area. Copperheads are fairly common and can inflict a severe wound.

Snakes generally avoid people and move away when threatened. Most snake bites occur when the snakes are handled, stepped on or cornered. All too often, people are

sasauga and prairie. The timber rattlesnake is found in the eastern one-third of Kansas, but is becoming increasingly rare. Of all poisonous snakes, it has the mildest disposition and will remain motionless and quiet to avoid being seen.

found nearby.

The prairie rattlesnake is what western movies are made from. It has a nasty disposition and is larger than any other venomous snakes in Kansas; up to 5 feet. This snake does not occur on Fort Riley.

water-snakes in Kansas are very aggressive and will strike even when unprovoked. Consequently, this mistaken identity has led to the demise of many harmless water-snakes and countless broken fishing rods.

The copperhead is by far the most common venomous snake in Kansas. As its name suggests, it is normally copper in color, but may vary from reddish brown to gray. The color and pattern of the copperhead make it difficult to see among the leaves on the forest

tant. It does absolutely no good to "cut and suck" the snakebite as was once prescribed. That may even make the translocation of venom worse. If bitten by a venomous snake, try to stay calm and go directly to a hospital.

All snakes, including venomous species, are beneficial to mankind. They are highly efficient predators of rodents, and serve to keep nature in balance. Their presence indicates a healthy environment.

On the Wildside: News About Nature

The massasauga is the smallest of the rattlesnakes and can be found in the eastern two-thirds of Kansas. It too is becoming

No other snake has been subjected to more tales and mistaken identity than the cottonmouth, commonly called the water moccasin. However, this dangerous

Command Inspection Program, augmentee inspectors essential

By Jeremy Heckler
19th PAD

The current Fort Riley Command Inspection Program was developed back in 1999, when Maj. Gen. Freddy McFarren asked the Inspector General's Office to create an inspection program that would look at every brigade, battalion and separate company on Fort Riley annually. Since that time, Maj. Gen. Robert St. Onge, and now Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, have fully supported the program and continue to expand their involvement.

Metz spends approximately five hours in the inspected unit during the inspection week, receiving a command brief, participating in a walk-thru of the unit facilities, conducting sensing sessions and then receiving the results at the out-brief, along with the brigade and unit commander, from each of the augmentee

inspectors.

The augmentee inspectors are charged with the mission to teach and train in each of their respective areas, and ensure when they leave the unit, if the unit did not have a good system in place, they are now better equipped to put that system in place and get it fully functional.

A unit commander gets an initial command inspection within 120 days of taking command, and then receives another subsequent command inspection approximately one year later.

During the inspections, the headquarters and all companies, are subject to inspection during the one-week inspection window. There are approximately 70 areas inspected during that week, and for some areas the headquarters and all companies are inspected, and in other areas companies are randomly selected the day prior to the inspection.

By this random selection, all companies prepare for the inspection in all areas and are able to

request staff assistance visits from the inspectors to prepare them for the actual inspection.

The Fort Riley inspection program is designed to ensure that all command, staff, Inspector General and external inspections complement one another and achieve one common goal; to sustain excellence in training, readiness, logistics and caring for the soldiers and family members of Fort Riley units. Inspection teams are made up of "Subject Matter Experts" from the IG Office and 18 Installation Directorates/Activities. The focus of the week-long inspection is a "training event." Additionally, the inspectors will find units who have excellent systems/programs in place, and they will share those systems/programs with other units.

Renee Renz, DOIM, records management inspector said, "We are required to conduct records management inspections of each activity/unit every 2 years. This helps us fulfill that requirement."

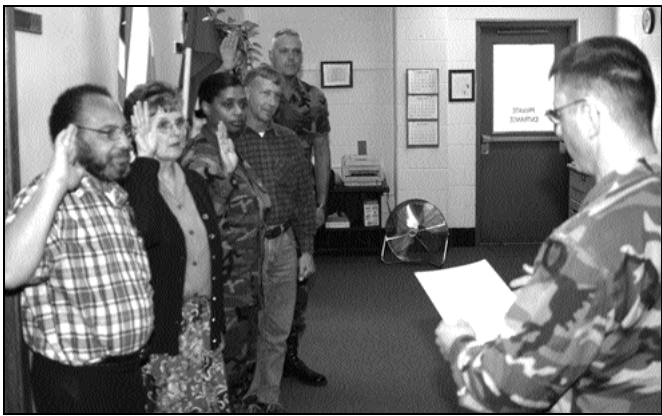
Each augmentee inspector

receives an inspection class from the IG Office on the techniques of conducting inspections and the specific requirements to complete the inspections.

Following the inspection training, Lt. Col. Mark Hayhurst, Fort Riley Inspector General, swears in the augmentee inspectors as temporary assistance inspector generals while conducting their respective inspections as part of the command inspection program here at Fort Riley.

"It's an excellent program, because it gives the commander an opportunity to see what is going on in his unit and see how well his soldiers are being taken care of," said Sgt. 1st Class William Lemon, 1st Finance Battalion, leave and pay inspector.

Clyde Sallee, DCA, Army substance abuse program inspector said, "Being part of the IG team is very rewarding for me. The IG team provides me the opportunity to take a first hand look at how the Army substance abuse program is administered at the unit level."



Post/Heckler

Lt. Col. Mark Hayhurst, Fort Riley Inspector General, swears subject matter deputies into the inspector general team on May 2. The augmentee inspectors are temporary assistance inspector generals while conducting their respective inspections.

Hometown recruiting boosts enlistment numbers

Army News Service

WASHINGTON - A recruiting initiative that sends Advanced Individual Training graduates back home to tell the Army's story continues to boost enlistment numbers.

"The Hometown Recruiter Assistance Program remains effective because new recruits can give their peers an up-to-date perspective on what Army life is like," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Schenkel, a recruiting station commander in Holland, Mich.

More than 30,000 soldiers participated in the program in fiscal year 2001, and the Army credits 1,687 enlistments to HRAP, said Army Recruiting officials. This fiscal year, more than 14,000 soldiers have participated in HRAP, and 571 enlistments have been made so far, officials said.

Schenkel credits two enlistment contracts this fiscal year to HRAP at his station, but he said there's no way to quantify the rapport the 22-year-old program helps build among the recruiters and the community.

"When the community -- schools, churches, neighbors -- see that the young soldier is happy with the decision to become a soldier, the community starts to trust is more," Schenkel said. "They start to associate the Army with the soldier's success."

Selected soldiers can return home for up to 14 days, at no cost to the government, to assist recruiters. The recruits bring friends and relatives to the station to learn about Army opportunities, or they escort recruiters to their former school for presentations.

Learning a skill that can be used in the civilian workforce is one of the most important benefits the Army offers, said Pvt. Benjamin Martinez, an HRAP participant. Which is why Martinez said he pitches that the hardest when discussing Army benefits.

"When I talk to my friends, I tell them about the skills the Army gives you, the college benefits and the discipline and focus the Army helps you gain," Martinez said.

The 20-year-old recruit graduated from AIT at Fort Eustis, Va., as an OH-58 Kiowa Warrior

repairer. He's participating in HRAP to help the recruiters that assisted him in paving the path for his future, he said.

Martinez enlisted in the Army in the GED Plus program, an initiative that requires non-high-school graduates to complete an attendance-based General Educational Development program, while serving in the Army's Delayed Entry Program.

Applicants who want to participate in the GED Plus program must score in the top half of the nation on the Armed Forces Qualification Tests, which measures the applicants' academic skills. They must also score in the top 75 percent on the Assessment of Individual Motivation test, which measures dependability, adjustment, dominance, achievement orientation and agreeableness.

AIM is used as an attrition tool, officials said. The test shows promise for improving the Army's capability to select applicants who are more likely to complete their obligated term of enlistment, officials said.

"The Army has a lot of programs to help young people get started in life," Schenkel said. "There are some people who would give up on a person without a degree or a GED, but the Army is here to give them an opportunity."

"HRAP gives us a chance to let a living example talk for us because my early experiences in the Army happened 10 years ago," Schenkel said.

After being back home a week, Martinez has already given recruiters seven possible leads. Unlike some of his friends who are unsure about the Army right now, Martinez said he knew he wanted to join the Army, and he knew what he wanted to do.

"I just walked into the station, and when I saw that I could work in aviation, I just did what I had to do to become eligible and join,"

Martinez said. "I'm happy with my decision. I've learned a lot of discipline and focus, and that's what I tell my friends when I see them just hanging out on the streets."

Martinez's first duty station will be at Fort Carson, Colo., and he said he's looking forward to learning how to be a leader.

Just three years ago the Army fell about 6,300 soldiers short of its goal of 74,500, and the Army Reserve was 10,300 below its goal of 52,084, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki said to

members of the House Committee on Armed Services. Reporting to the House on the Army's readiness, Shinseki said new recruiting initiatives sparked a year-end upturn in the number of enlistments.

"The Army is aggressively restructuring its entire recruiting operation," Shinseki said. "We will continue to emphasize creative solutions to the challenge of attracting sufficient numbers of young Americans to military service."

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